

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder, in which a layer of ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group is laminated on the surface of a base powder particle, a layer of water-swellable clay mineral is laminated thereon, and the layers are sequentially laminated so that the surface charge or the ionic charge of each layer is alternately positive and negative.
2. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1, wherein the ionic molecule is a polymer electrolyte.
3. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellable clay mineral is 0.5 μm or less.
4. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to any one of claim 1 to 3, wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to 1000 μm .
5. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to any one of claim 1 to 4, wherein a functional molecule, which having opposite charge to the surface charge of outermost water-swellable clay mineral or the ionic charge of outermost ionic molecules, is adsorbed on the outermost surface of the laminated powder.

6. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 5, wherein the water-swellable clay mineral is located on the outermost surface of the laminated powder, and a cationic functional molecule is adsorbed to the ion exchange group on the surface of the water-swellable clay mineral on the outermost surface.

7. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6, wherein the cationic functional molecule is an alkyl ammonium salt.

8. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the amount of the adsorbed cationic functional molecule in the laminated powder is 0.01 to 10 weight%.

9. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the water-swellable clay mineral is a water-swellable clay mineral in which other molecules intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

10. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellable clay mineral is a water-swellable clay mineral in which polyhydric alcohol intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

11. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 9, wherein the water-swellable clay mineral is a water-swellable clay mineral in which water-soluble polymer intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

12. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the water-swellable clay mineral is a dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex in which dye and water-swellable clay mineral are complexed.

13. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 12, wherein the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swellable clay mineral.

14. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex is a complex in which polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

15. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 14, wherein the polybase polybese is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

16. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 13, wherein the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swellable clay mineral.

17. (original) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16, wherein the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex is a complex in which nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

18. (currently amended) The water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.

19. (currently amended) A producing method of producing a water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder comprising; an ionic molecule adsorption process for an ionic molecule is adsorbed on a base powder surface, wherein a base powder particle is dispersed in an aqueous solution of an ionic molecule having two or more ionic functional group with the opposite charge to the charge of the base powder; and a water-swellable clay mineral adsorption process for a water-swellable clay

mineral is adsorbed on the powder surface, wherein the powder particle after the adsorption of the ionic molecule is dispersed in an aqueous solution of the water-swellable clay mineral having opposite charge to the ionic charge of the ionic molecule of the powder particle surface.

20. (currently amended) A cosmetic comprising the water-swellable clay mineral laminated powder according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 to 18.

21. (original) A dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex, in which polybase and/or nonionic hydrophilic polymer and dye are complexed to water-swellable clay mineral.

22. (original) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein polybase and acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

23. (original) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to claim 22, wherein the polybase is a polybase having quaternary ammonium group in the molecule.

24. (original) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to claim 21, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are complexed to water-swellable clay mineral.

25. (original) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to claim 24, wherein nonionic hydrophilic polymer and water-soluble dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral.

26. (currently amended) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to claim 24 or 25, wherein the water-soluble dye is an acid dye.

27. (currently amended) The dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim 21 to 26, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellable clay mineral is 1 μm or less.

28. (currently amended) A pigment composition comprising the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim 21 to ~~27~~.

29. (currently amended) A water-based coloring agent consisting of the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim 21 to ~~27~~.

30. (currently amended) A water-based composition comprising the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim 21 to ~~27~~.

31. (currently amended) A water-based cosmetic comprising the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex according to ~~any one of~~ claim 21 to ~~27~~.

32. (original) An acid dye laminated pigment, in which a dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex, which having opposite charge to the charge of a base powder, is coated on the surface of the base powder, and a polybase and an acid dye are intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral of the dye/water-swellable clay mineral complex.

33. (original) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32, wherein one or more layer of the acid dye /water-swellable clay mineral complex is further laminated on the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment, and a layer of an ionic molecule, which having opposite surface charge to the charge of the acid dye/ water-swellable clay mineral complex, exists in between the each layers of the acid dye/ water-swellable clay mineral complex.

34. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to claim 32 or 33, wherein the primary particle diameter of the water-swellable clay mineral is 1 μm or less.

35. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of~~ claim 32 to ~~34~~, wherein the average particle diameter of the base powder is 0.1 to 1000 μm .

36. (currently amended) The acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of~~ claim 32 ~~to~~ 35, wherein the surface of the acid dye laminated pigment is further treated to be hydrophobic.

37. (original) A producing method of an acid dye laminated pigment comprising; an acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex producing process for an acid dye is intercalated in between the layers of the water-swellable clay mineral, wherein a polybase and an acid dye is contacted to a water-swellable clay mineral in aqueous phase; and laminating process for the acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex is electrostatically adsorbed on the surface of a base powder, wherein obtained acid dye/water-swelling clay mineral complex and a base powder, which having opposite charge to the charge of the complex, are mixed in aqueous phase.

38. (currently amended) A pigment composition comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of~~ claim 32 ~~to~~ 36.

39. (currently amended) A cosmetic comprising the acid dye laminated pigment according to ~~any one of~~ claim 32 ~~to~~ 36.